

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Something Critical

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Resurrection

At a recent Sunday worship service on Easter, I heard someone say, “*I am so glad we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus once a year.*” I was shocked – to say the least! And I hope that those who read this article are equally shocked.

After all, why didn’t the early Christians choose Friday, the day of crucifixion, as the time for collective/corporate worship? If the crucifixion in itself was God’s main point, why didn’t the early Christians, and every generation of Christians since, choose Friday as the day of worship? Instead, why did they choose Sunday? It was for this primary reason: *to collectively celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!* Why has the Church continued choosing Sunday as the day for collective or corporate worship? *Because of the resurrection!*

Yet, strangely enough, churches continue to create and place a cross on their buildings and elsewhere – rather than an empty tomb – as the primary symbol of the Christian faith. But why not both? Why not reflect the New Testament emphasis? *Something critical seems to be out of focus!*

After all, in the New Testament, I set before the readers the instances where the mention of the death of Jesus is always matched by a parallel emphasis on His resurrection:

Mt. 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 27:63 ---- **Mk.** 8:31; 9:31; 10:34 ---- **Lk.** 9:22; 18:33; 24:7, 46 ---- **Jn.** 20:9 ---- **Ac.** 2:24, 32; 3:15, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 33, 34, 37; 17:31 ---- **Ro.** 1:4; 4:24, 25; 6:4, 9; 7:4; 8:11, 34; 10:9 ---- **1 Co.** 6:14; 15:4, 12, 15, 17, 20 ---- **2 Co.** 1:9; 4:14; 5:15 ---- **Ga.** 1:1 ---- **Ep.** 1:20 ---- **Co.** 2:12 ---- **1 Th.** 1:10 ---- **2 Ti.** 2:8 ---- **1 Pt.** 1:21

Thus, to emphasize the death of Jesus apart from His fabulous resurrection seemingly represents an imbalanced viewpoint or one that is not consistent with New Testament scripture. The Apostle Paul, for example, stressed that apart from His resurrection, “our preaching means nothing and your faith means nothing” (1 Co. 15:14).

So, let the proclamation of the **death** of Jesus be done boldly and unapologetically. But do not dare do so apart from also proclaiming boldly and unapologetically His **resurrection** – unless you prefer to present an inadequate, lopsided message of Jesus Christ which is foreign to the New Testament.